

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.
Record of Meeting, Canberra Southern Cross Club,
Wednesday 2 March 2016

- 1 The Chair, **Martin Miller**, welcomed attendees. There were no apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting for 3 February 2016 were approved.
- 3 **Antonio Mozqueira**, from the ACT Government's Climate Change Policy team provided an overview of developments following mandated requirements of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2010. These include 40% reduction of 1990 emission levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050; carbon neutrality by 2060 and 90% renewably-sourced electricity by 2020.

Projected changes to temperature, rainfall and the forest fire danger index were detailed. Canberra as a "City for all seasons" required a focus on increasing sustainability through investment in "living infrastructure" (trees) and emphasis on "climate-wise" buildings; as well as "adaptation innovation". Public comments and opinion were invited and could be made through the email and website addresses in the pamphlets provided.

Questions from the floor included the program as a whole: regulatory or voluntary? (minimum objectives set by regulation, response beyond that is voluntary); legislation for general protection from heat, such as the use of awnings, etc? (It was noted that more energy was used in the ACT for heating than cooling, and that solar passive design needs to be encouraged); retention of tree cover? (It was admitted that developments had reduced the proportion of tree cover for dwellings and that this needs to be addressed); provision of shade involved a range of options, not just trees (noted); the single-phase restriction on the use of battery storage was drawn to attention (and noted); issues involved in retrofitting old homes as well as multi-purpose buildings were brought to attention (and are being considered); the onerous cost and discouraging effect of land tax (up to 20% of rent) was mentioned (and noted); and star rating systems for rating new buildings canvassed.

- 4 An update on the John James Village Project was provided by **Phil Greenwood** (CEO), **Mark Blake** (Project Management), **Adam Litherland** (Design), **Simon Bessey** (Project Coordination) and **Christine McMillan** (Manager).

This John James Foundation project will address the service needs of leukaemia patients. The site plan was shown, the land for which was granted by the ACT Government. The outreach will be quite wide, extending beyond the ACT borders; annual operating costs will be approximately a quarter of a million dollars. The genesis of the project, the role of the Leukaemia Foundation and the involvement of both volunteers and specialist medical staff were described. **Adam Litherland** described how the village fitted into the local area and sketched-in building and landscaping design features, recreation facilities and maintenance arrangements. **Simon Bessey** confirmed that the project had started on 15 September 2015 and was due to be completed on 16 June, 2016. It was stressed that impact on neighbours would be minimal; the site will be kept clean and a walking track to the rear of the development will be maintained. It was also acknowledged that quite a

number of local companies are involved in the development. **Christine McMillan** explained that the Leukaemia Foundation was the peak body for this issue in Australia: some 60 thousand people in the country as a whole and about 4 thousand in the immediate “catchment” area are involved. Typical treatment regimes, at no cost to patients, were of 4 to 6 months duration; the longest has been about 18 months. Most support services (driving patients to and from services, teaching patients how to cook, looking after carers as well as patients’ family, etc) were performed by volunteers, who included some 178 different drivers.

Martin Miller asked about community access (allowed in common rooms, which will be monitored; other areas are private) and fund raising (an annual bike ride was mentioned and attention directed to the website, jjf.org.au, which includes provision for making tax-deductible donations). **Mike Reddy** expressed everyone’s admiration for the project and thanked the contributors for the progress report

- 5 **Bill O’Brien** presented the Treasurer’s Report, noting that after paying for the post box and the Reflections Event last year (\$1999.84), balance on hand was \$25,280.00.
- 6 General Business: **Mike Reddy** noted that five juveniles had been apprehended following concerns expressed on talkback radio about security issues at the Alexander and Albemarle Buildings in Phillip. **Bernard Borg-Caruana** expressed concerns about the lack of community consultation in bike trail developments in the pine forests around Isaacs: apparently, the scope of development is very different to that originally proposed. Walking tracks and equestrian trails are involved as well. It was noted that TAMS has undertaken to respond to this issue. **Jenny Stewart** noted that a citizen’s anti-tram (light rail) rally was scheduled for 8, 9 and 10 March from 4:30-6pm in Civic; contact: rollingrally@canthetram.org. **Caroline le Couteur** said that the Federal Golf Course had reiterated a development request. It was also noted that sites on the Uriarra Road and the Cotter Road had been marked for development by the ACT Government.
- 7 The meeting finished at 9:25pm. Next meeting of the WVCC will be on 6 April in the Hellenic Club. The President, **Martin Miller**, gave special thanks to the Southern Cross Club for providing premises for WVCC meetings pending our return to the Hellenic Club.

Timoshenko Aslanides

Minutes Secretary,

7 March 2016